

2019.05.21

9 Deputy K.G. Pamplin of St. Saviour of the Minister for Home Affairs regarding the funding of Dewberry House: (OQ.127/2019)

Will the Minister advise whether the additional funding, requested for Dewberry House, has been agreed and, if so, when that budget will be made available to the service; and, if it has not been agreed, will he explain why not?

The Connétable of St. Clement (The Minister for Home Affairs):

Yes, the funding for Dewberry House is being considered, alongside other bids as part of the development of the Government Plan. But I can say this to the Deputy: I regard Dewberry House as an essential service and I will support the bid robustly during the process over the next couple of months.

4.9.1 Deputy K.G. Pamplin:

I thank the Minister for his question and his support of the service in, not just my district, but which serves the Island as a whole and has done some great work supporting Islanders at very vulnerable times. The funding for the current service ends at the end of this year and, of course, communication is very important, when concerns for budgets and employing staff could not be successful. Will the Minister confirm that the communication of this process will be upped and does he see when this could be resolved, so that they know the money will be coming?

The Connétable of St. Clement:

As I said, this is all part of the Government Plan, which will be lodged in July, which I would expect would include the funding for Dewberry House and the States will have the opportunity for debating this in September, or the autumn and if the States approve the funding for Dewberry House, it will be in place for next year and I really expect that to happen.

4.9.2 Deputy K.G. Pamplin:

Part of that funding was for a capital bid for a new purpose-built building. Can the Minister elaborate if that will be problematic alongside the funding, which they have asked for, for the C.S.A.P. (Child Sexual Abuse Pathway) funding, separate to that bid?

The Connétable of St. Clement:

As I said, there is a process for deciding on the priorities; the Government Plan will present the Government's priorities to this Assembly and the Assembly will make the decision. But, as I said in answer to the first question, I will be robustly supporting the full bid.